



PalatinePicklers.com

palatinepicklers@gmail.com

FEBRUARY, 2022 NEWSLETTER

WE TURN 7 THIS MONTH

As I write this, I have welcomed 2,248 Picklers to this club, including 829 in the last year. 629 of our members reside within the Palatine Park District. Our 73, monthly newsletters have had 1,348 pages which contained 11,167 photos.. We've now sold 634 Palatine Picklers shirts.

In the last year we enjoyed 9 of our 45, fun tournaments. New ones in 2021 were Ugly Holiday Sweater tournament & judging ... Oldest Picklemen ... Oldest Pickleladies ... Youngest Pickleladies ... Men Closest to 60 ... and Ladies Closest to 60. Also, 29 of our 34 Pickler profiles have appeared in the last year. We started recognizing our Worthy Walkers (15,000 steps in a day) and our Super Steppers (20,000 steps in a day). In 2021 a number of us purchased bricks engraved as desired for placement at the home of pickleball on Baimbridge Island in WA.

We debuted a new, improved, and expanded Facebook presence last fall, and a new, improved and expanded website last month. Bear was interviewed for 38 minutes about pickleball and the Palatine Pickleball Club on a Palatine Park District podcast.

This past year, while our usual indoor facilities were closed, Neal Harris got a closed, Lake Zurich warehouse to let him and other Picklers line courts and open play to masked Picklers. Thanks, Neal.

John Kirschner captioned our 3.5-4.0 travel team off to a winning start against Hoffman, DuPage, and LibertyRidge, before handing off the clipboard to Bob Bregenzer. It remains a competitive, Thursday league at Canlan Sportsplex.

A highlight of our 2021 year was our soldiers mentoring. I was asked by Sgt Dan to secure six, free courts near Ft Sheridan, get six Mentors, 24+ paddles and a lot of balls, to run a mentoring session for 24+ soldiers who didn't know a pickleball from a formal ball at 7:00 a.m. on Sunday, October24th. No problem, right? We made it happen, thanks to the Highland Park District, Bob Goldstein, Dennis Bourgoin, Neal Harris, Melody Woodsum, Thea Froehling, and me, we gave them an awesome morning for which they were truly thankful.

Last fall we also participated in a drive-by, 95th birthday celebration for George Cridland, a familiar WWII Navy honoree who accompanies wife Elvira to Falcon for pickleball.



In the last year we provided mentoring to more Picklers than ever before. Over the summer, Dennis Bourgoïn, Marv Zwass, Neal Harris, Bob Goldstein, and I helped 133 students on Wednesday mornings. Dennis and I served up to 37 Thursday afternoons. In the fall Neal, Dennis, and I mentored 69 students indoors at Canlan. We'll continue to serve them every other Tuesday morning through April 5th.

ADDICTING SPORT ?



Debbie, Janice, Brian, and Mary were among the Picklers who pickled on January 1st to start the year right.



Just so you don't think those of us who played on wet courts on New Years Day are overly obsessed with pickleball, I thought this photo of these unknown addicts would put us in perspective.

TO PLAY AT CANLAN ...

You must fill out this form <https://member.dashplatform.com/#/online/canlan/login?=2071089126>

MORE LADY PICKLERS NEEDED 2/15

We need three more ladies aged from 50 to 65 for this 8-Pickler tournament. However, if I don't get 8, I'll open it up to those closest to 50 or 65. It's will be at Canlan Sportsplex in Lake Barrington at 9:00 a.m. Tuesday, February 15th. If you're fully vaccinated and would like to compete in this round robin event, email me at aokbarry@yahoo.com. If you are not in the 50-65 age range, be sure to include your MMDDYY date of birth so I can find those closest to the desired age range.



Carolyn



Bill



Frank



Janet



Heather



The Grim Stever



James



Silver

MENTORING STILL AVAILABLE

If you're fully vaccinated, available from 10 to 11:45 Tuesday mornings, and interested in learning the sport or polishing your skills, email me at aokbaarry@yahoo.com. You may be one of 24 to receive a Sunday afternoon invitation for the mentoring session two days later at Canlan Sportsplex in Lake Barrington. Our remaining dates are 2/8 2/22 3/8 3/22 and 4/5. You'll pay Canlan's \$8 fee at the lobby desk. You'll be in a group of Picklers of similar experience and abilities. You can be put on any/all of the 5 expect to be available lists.



Mary



Neal



Marcia, Jesse, Dori, & Fred in Palm Springs



Laura



Mark (pic by Anne S)



Jean



Mary

PALATINE PICKLERS' PPD VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

In non-pandemic years, each February by our Park District to the Volunteer of The 2018. Starting in 2019 I've been asked 2019 it was Greg Kuhs. In 2020 it was This year it was Marv Zwass. In lieu of year in a row, volunteers will be starting at noon, we can watch the on their Facebook page. There will be video. You'll hear what I wrote about Mentor each summer for several Hope you check out the video.



Palatine's clubs and organizations are invited Recognition Luncheon. Each group is asked Year. The PPD first invited us to attend in to nominate an individual as our VOTY. In Anne Stein. In 2021 it was Dennis Bourgoin. a luncheon, due to COVID, for the second recognized online. On Saturday, February 5th recognitions on PalatineParks.org, as well as a banner at the top with a link to watch the Marv, but basically, he's been a super years, particularly for brand new players. Congratulations, and thanks, Marv.

THIS MONTH'S MEDALISTS



Josh Camden & Steve Lawler
CL Winter Classic – 3.5 Gold



Maria Churak & Todd Price
CL Winter Classic – 3.5 Silver



Ray Jenkins & Alexis Duncan
Boca Raton Masters – 70+ 3.5 Gold



Chris



Clay



Debbie



Gary

LET'S REVIEW WHAT SHOULD BE OBVIOUS

We **ARE** still in a pandemic. Hello! For those Picklers willing to actually play indoors, they deserve a little respect. Wear real masks ... not gators or bandanas ... and NEVER let it fall beneath your nose. That is SO ... (could insert a lot of negative adjectives, choose your own) ... that is just not acceptable. Omicron is SO transmissible. Yes, it's less likely to cause hospitalization or death, except for the (who knows why) unvaccinated, but some of us are high-risk. The disrespect of not wearing your mask properly is beyond my comprehension. You and anyone who is not vaccinated ARE the problem. Jerkovich and Aaron Rogers do have talents for their respective sports, but don't think their non-athletic actions are anything to admire or emulate. DO get vaccinated and boosted. DO properly wear a real (preferably KN95 or N95) mask. Do NOT bunch up at paddle racks. Order curbside or drive-through when possible. Avoid dining inside restaurants or bars. Churches are a touchy subject, but, if you do go into a church, please avoid singing and keep your mask on properly.



Daniel



Janice



Jaime



Jenny



Susan



Mike



Pam



Pat

THERE'S STILL ROOM IN PICKLEBALL PARADISE



18 Palatine Picklers have reservations for 7 December days in Jamaica at this all-inclusive, Sandals Resort. Read more about it in last May and June newsletters. Due to the vax requirement, a few spots have opened. Hope you join us. Pickleball every day. <http://www.alfrescotravel.com/2022-jammin-in-jamaica-pickleball.html>



Mike



Mike



Bill



Carolyn

THANKS TO OUR 2021 PICKLER VOLUNTEERS

Anne Stein ... Shirt sales and frequent photographer

Bob Goldstein ... Summer Wednesday Mentor

Dennis Bourgoin ... Summer Wednesday, Summer Thursday, and Indoor Mentor

Gregg Didech ... Led the 3.5-4.0 travel team, while John snowbirded

Greg Kuhs ... MailMaster and forwarder of email sent to PalatinePicklers@gmail

Jaime Sandoval ... Creator & maintainer of Hamilton's & Sycamore's net lifting so balls could be putted under

John Kirschner ... Captained our 3.5-4.0 travel team

John Pihl ... Webmaster and designer of our new website

Karin Beil ... Administrator of our Facebook presence

Marv Zwass ... Summer Wednesday Mentor

Melody Woodsum ... Soldier Mentor & benefactor

Neal Harris ... Summer Wednesday Mentor, Indoor Mentor, & Procurer of warehouse courts during lockdown

Robin Dubin ... Summer Scheduler of Mentorees

Thea Froehling ... Soldier Mentor

Tracy Weslager ... Administrator and expander of our Facebook presence



Chris



Ann



Brian



Bill



Jaime



Laurie (pic by Anne S)



Kenny (pic by Anne S)



Susan (pic by Anne S)



Terry



Neal



Mary



Jim



Mary



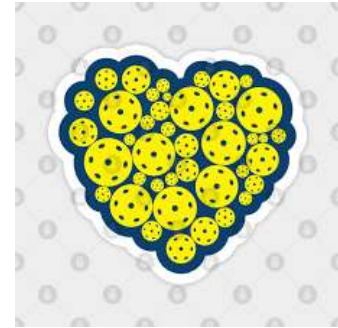
Ann



Shannon



Heather



VALENTINE COUPLES

I was reminded of something I did five years ago. In just our second year, I ended up putting photos of Palatine Picklers couples in the February, 2017 newsletter. There were already 48 of them. I can't imagine how many we have now, but I'm sure it would be at least two or three hundred. Isn't it awesome that this sport, perhaps more than any other, works for couples to enjoy it together? Happy Valentines Day, Picklers.

STEPS SEEM HAMPERED BY WEATHER

Every month we recognize Picklers who are able to get 15,000 steps in a day as Worthy Walkers and those who earn 20,000 steps as Super Steppers. Those of us with treadmills are able to keep killing this. Snow and freezing temps are definitely keeping even regular contributors from sending me proof of their movement. If you can qualify, please send your proof to aokbarry@yahoo.com. This month only three submitted their walking accomplishments. How 'bout joining us next month? Just email proof to aokbarry@yahoo.com.



Bear Shatwell



Ben Farb



Kathy For

Steps
24,234 steps

Steps
17,764 steps



22,400
Steps



20,723
Steps



18,277
Steps

DOES ANYONE HAVE ENOUGH PALATINE PICKLERS SHIRTS ?

Of course, the answer is “No.” Do you think we have the most awesome pickleball club anywhere? Of course. Yet, we’ve welcomed 2244 members, yet we’ve sold only 637 shirts. Hmmm. How ‘bout going to PalatinePicklers.com and checking out the available shirts and emailing me (aokbarry@yahoo.com) the style number/s, color/s, and size you would like to add to your pickleball wardrobe.

REMEMBER YOUR DISCOUNT CODES

5% OFF anything sold on PickleballCentral.com, when you use the code **CRPALATINEPB**.

10-20% OFF Paddletek paddles from Chuck at 847-877-7770 or grtfuldad@aol.com.

20% OFF anything at engagepickleball.com, with the code **20jon**.



Clay



Sue



Debbie



Giuseppe



Adam & Kristine



Bob



Jenny



Hayden



Sue (pic by Anne S)



Carol



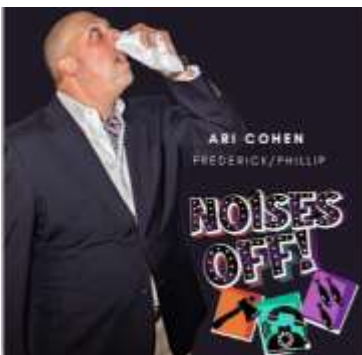
Dori

If you noticed some Picklers have two photos this month, one was with, and one was without, a mask.

WE REALLY NEED TO COMMUNICATE

These newsletters invite you to participate in tournaments, leagues, and mentoring. If you accept an invitation, PLEASE email me at aokbarry@yahoo.com, if you find you'd have a conflict. Two days before any event I email participants asking for their final confirmation that they'll be there. This is NOT the time to tell me you can't make it after all.. This is particularly true of our mentoring programs. There is an "Expect To Be Available" list of Mentorees. I review a session's list on Saturday and do my best to put together three groups of eight who are of compatible experience and abilities. Then on Sunday afternoon I email those 24 invitations, assuming they'll be accepted. Why wouldn't they be? If someone had a conflict come up since asking to be on that's session's ETBA list, they'd surely email me to take them off, right? That would be the courteous and respectful thing to do. Getting subs takes time and lessens the chance of my being able to put together as compatible groups on my required, 11th hour attempt.

In January I started a two-strike policy. A strike is earned by (a) not answering an invitation by 10 a.m. Monday, (b) saying you can't attend after all (last minute emergencies excluded), or (c) being a no-show. After a second strike, you will be removed from all remaining ETBA lists. Strikes will start anew for the outdoor season. We've had only two, 2022 mentoring sessions, and seven Mentorees have earned a strike. Let's try to communicate in a more timely fashion, from now on. I really prefer praising and congratulating our Palatine Picklers. Admonishing them is far from fun. Please don't prompt me to keep doing it. Thanks.



ARI IS ON STAGE AGAIN

Ari Cohen, profiled in May, 2021, will be starring in Noises Off at the Woodstock Opera House February 25, 26, 27, March 4, 5, 6, 11, 12, & 13. Fridays & Saturdays at 8:00 p.m., and Sundays at 2:00 p.m. \$26/A seats, and \$20/B seats. Seniors & students are \$2 less.

Woodstockoperahouse.com GO SEE ARI DO HIS THING

NEW PICKLEBALL SHIRTS BENEFIT HIS FAVORITE CAUSE



Palatine Pickler Jeff Degner (profiled in December, 2020) has decided to design pickleball shirts. He started with three that are available online

at <https://www.bonfire.com/store/picklejeff/>. As with the sale of his two books, all profits from the sale of these T-shirts will go the nonprofit organization “Healing the Children.”

Because it is such a worthy cause, I’ll mention his enjoyable, humorous, and enlightening books too. They are “What Track For The Atlanta Flight?” and “Runway To Recoveries” which includes a section on some of the heart-warming experiences Jeff has accumulated over his many years of bringing kids here for cures of severe conditions their home countries lacked the medical wherewithal to address.

MELODY HONORED

At a Red Carpet Affair on Boca Raton, our own Melody Woodsum was received an APP Referee of the Year award.



Congratulations, Melody. That’s terrific.

LIZ’S 11TH HOUR HEROICS

Just in time to make the newsletter. We’ve got one more Palatine Pickler medalist to show you ... again and again.



Desert Ridge Open – Natalie Todorovic – Sr Doubles Open - Silver



USA Nationals, Indian Wells, CA 4.5 35+ - Gold



USA Nationals - Natalie Todorovic & Liz Chaplinski ... 5.0 50+ - Silver

Way to start the new year, Liz. Congratulations.

MEET PICKLER NICOLE VERLOTTA

Nicole and her hubby Brandon joined the club in September and jumped right into mentoring sessions. As did most of us, they became instant addicts. Nicole claimsto be 42 years old. She’s one of three siblings, including an identical twin. She likes to say she’s the middle one by 55 minutes. She grew up in Portage Park and moved to Palatine in high school. She and Brandon purchased a home here last year and she, Brandon, andpet dog Benji love it. They love spending time with their nieces and nephews. Both enjoy traveling and taking their puppy to all the beautiful Forest Preserves the area has to offer.

Nicole absolutely loves cooking, brings fond memories of spending

For the past ten years, Nicole has for D’Aprile Properties where she has seeing her clients’ faces, when she house. She also enjoys helping sell next adventure.

Her top bucket list item is to travel to Mediterranean.



finding it extremely peaceful. It time with her grangmother as a child.

been a licensed realtor. She works been a Top Producer. She loves knew they had found the perfect homes, to get her clients off to their

Greece and swim in the

She and Brandon found pickleball while on vacation with their good friends Brett and Donna Starr in Syracuse, Indiana. They instantly fell in love with the sport. When they came home, they found this lovely group called the Palatine Picklers. They appreciate all the education, fun, and community our group creates and look forward to improving their skills on an ongoing basis.

Nicole’s favorite quote is, “I’ll make the most of it. I’m an extraordinary machine,” from Fiona Apple.



The first photo shows them on a hayride date at Konow’s Corn Maze. The second introduces you to Benji.



HALF PAST 11TH HOUR HEROICS



Tucson Sr Olympics – Masato Suzuki
& Phile MaCage – 3.5 70+ - Silver.



Liz Chaplinski played her first Sr Pro mixed event
In Phoenix with Tony Omlin and won on Center Court

HEY, 3.0 – 3.5 PICKLERS ... WHAT DO YOU THINK?

You may remember that it's bugged me that we didn't have a 3.0 – 3.5 travel team the last two years. Well, we had the Picklers, but I couldn't find an opponent. Would you be open to an intramural, bi-weekly competition? It would be at Canlan on Tuesday mornings. Our Picklers would be divided into two teams ... those below 65 years of age and those 65 and above. I'm thinking four men and four ladies on each team. This would start in mid-April. Now the tough part ... I won't do all the work. I'd need two Team Captains. They will field the teams for each match. All participants must be fully vaccinated and boosted and properly wear a mask inside the facility. If you'd be interested in playing, email me at aokbarry@yahoo.com with your birthdate. If you'd be willing to serve as Captain, let me know that also. For so many years, we've enjoyed competition at this level. Maybe we still can. For anyone not familiar with the ratings, this would be for lower intermediate Picklers.



We've enjoyed a lot of pickleball, club tournaments, travel teams, social events, and charitable activities over our seven years and made a lot of new friends.

I invite those of you who play indoors to take pic of Palatine Picklers on the court and send them to me, along with their names. We don't want to risk forgetting some we haven't seen in two years.

Meanwhile, Rusty and I wish you a safe and happy Valentines Day.

Bear Shatwell
PicklersPrez
aokbarry@yahoo.com